

SFG 2023 | LEVEL 1 | Test #9 – Solutions |

Q.1) Which of the following are **not** necessarily the consequences of the proclamation of the President's rule in a State?

1. Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly
2. Removal of the Council of Ministers in the State
3. Dissolution of the local bodies

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

When President's Rule is imposed in a state, the President dismisses Council of Ministers in the State.

Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly and local bodies is not necessarily a consequence of the proclamation of the President's rule in a State. The President may either suspend or dissolve the State Legislative Assembly.

Source: PYQ 2017

Indian Polity by Laxmikant – 6th Edition – Chapter 16 - Emergency Provisions.

Q.2) With reference to the 'District Councils' for Tribal Areas of some states, consider the following statements:

1. Each Autonomous district has a fully elected district council.
2. Laws made on village administration by these Councils require the assent of the Governor.
3. The Governor is empowered to dissolve the district council on recommendation of the State Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Each **autonomous district has a district council** consisting of 30 members, of whom **four are nominated by the Governor** and the remaining **26 are elected on the basis of adult franchise**. The elected members hold office for a term of five years and nominated members hold office during the pleasure of the Governor. Each autonomous region also has a separate regional council.

Statement 2 is correct: The **district** and regional **councils** administer the areas under their jurisdiction. They **can make laws** on certain specified matters like land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, **village administration**, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs and so on. The district council can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district. It can also make regulations for the control of money lending and trading by non-tribals. But all **such laws require the assent of the Governor**.

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Statement 3 is incorrect: The Governor can appoint a commission to examine and report on any matter relating to the administration of the autonomous districts or regions. **Governor may dissolve** a district or regional council on the **recommendation of the commission**.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – 6th Edition – Chapter 41 – Scheduled and Tribal Areas.

Q.3) With reference to the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. A region is declared as a Scheduled Area by the President but any change in its area can be done only by the Governor of respective State.
2. The executive power of a State does not extend to the Scheduled Areas.
3. The President can direct to establish a Tribes Advisory Council in states without Scheduled Areas.
4. A Governor can make a regulation to repeal any act of the state legislature in Scheduled Areas, with President's assent.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Scheduled Areas are defined in the Fifth Schedule are inhabited by 'aboriginals' who are socially and economically rather backward, and special efforts need to be made to improve their condition.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **President is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area**. He can **also increase or decrease its area**, alter its boundary lines, rescind such designation or make fresh orders for such redesignation on an area in consultation with the Governor of the state concerned.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **executive power of a state extends to the Scheduled Areas**. But the Governor has a special responsibility regarding such areas. He has to submit a report to the President regarding the administration of such areas, annually or whenever so required by the President. The executive power of the Centre extends to giving directions to the states regarding the administration of such areas.

Statement 3 is correct: Each state having Scheduled Areas has to establish a **tribe's advisory council** to advice on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes. A similar council **can also be established in a state having scheduled tribes but not Scheduled Areas therein, if the President so directs**. It is to consist of 20 members, three-fourths of whom are to be the representatives of the scheduled tribes in the state legislative assembly.

Statement 4 is correct: The Governor have several powers in respect to the Scheduled Areas. He may make a **regulation to repeal** or amend any **act** of Parliament or the **state legislature**, which is applicable to a scheduled area. **But all such regulations require the assent of the President**.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – 6th Edition – Chapter 41 – Scheduled and Tribal Areas.

Q.4) Consider the following statements with reference to the National Integration Council:

1. It is neither a constitutional nor a statutory body.
2. It is chaired by the President of India.
3. Meetings of the national integration council are mandatorily convened biennially.
4. The representatives of industry, business and trade unions are also included as the members of council.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- d) 2 and 4 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The objectives of the National Integration Council (NIC) are to achieve unity in diversity, freedom of religions, secularism, equality, justice-social-economic and political, and fraternity among all communities.

Statement 1 is correct: National Integration Council is neither a Constitutional body nor a Statutory body. It is an extra-constitutional body. The National Integration Council (NIC) was constituted in 1961 at a national conference on 'unity in diversity' convened by the Central government, at New Delhi.

Statement 2 is incorrect: National integration council is chaired by the Prime minister of India (and not by the President of India) It is consisted of the prime minister as chairman, central home minister, chief ministers of states, seven leaders of political parties, the chairman of the UGC, two educationists, the commissioner for SCs and STs and seven other persons nominated by the prime minister.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Meetings of the national integration council are convened as per requirement from time to time. There is no regular or specified time interval for convening meetings of the national integration council.

Statement 4 is correct: In 1968, the Central government revived the National Integration Council. Its size was increased from 39 to 55 members. **The representatives of industry, business and trade unions are also included as a members of national integration council.**

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/national-integration-council-last-met-in-2013-minister-informs-lok-sabha/articleshow/84787844.cms>

https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/NATIONALINTEGRATIONCOUNCIL_26082022_1.pdf
Indian polity by M Laxmikanth pdf. Chapter name- national integration. Page no-1264.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding 'SEED scheme':

1. It is a scheme for economic empowerment of Divyangjans in India.
2. The scheme provides free coaching for the deserving candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations.
3. The scheme also has the provisions of Health insurance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of De-Notified Tribes (SEED).

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) aims to economically empower De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities (not the Divyangjans). De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes are the most neglected, marginalised and economically and socially deprived communities. In 2014, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment constituted a National

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Commission for DE notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes for a period of three years. This commission gave recommendations and prepared draft lists of DNT/NT/SNT Communities.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: The Government has decided to create an umbrella scheme for empowerment of these communities and accordingly, the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs, SNTs & NTs (SEED) has been formulated with **four components** that affect their livelihood.

The four components of the SEED scheme are:

- 1) **Educational empowerment- Free coaching to students from these communities for Civil Services, entry to professional courses like medicine, engineering, MBA, etc.**
- 2) **Health Insurance through PMJAY of National Health Authority.**
- 3) Livelihoods to support income generation, and
- 4) **Housing (through PMAY/IAAY)**

Source: Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry to launch a Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)-ForumIAS Blog

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1798792>

Q.6) Which among the following is/are a special feature that distinguishes a pressure group from a political party?

1. While the political parties can be informal but to be the recognized as a pressure group it must be a formal entity.
2. Pressure groups are always confined to a few people, while parties involve a larger number of people.
3. Pressure groups do not seek to get into power, while political parties do.
4. Pressure groups do not seek to mobilise people, while political parties do.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

A pressure group is a group of people who are organized actively for promoting and defending their common interest.

Option 1 is incorrect. Political parties are formal organizations, they need to be registered with designated authority (In India – Election Commission of India). Pressure groups can be formal or informal in nature. They can be registered as a society, but it is not a mandatory provision.

Option 2 is incorrect. Some Pressure groups are confined to a few people, but some groups are very big like farmer associations.

Option 3 is correct. Pressure groups are organisations that attempt to influence government policies. **But unlike political parties, pressure groups do not aim to directly control or share political power.** Promoting the **interests of a group of society or interests of particular sections of society is the usual aim** of Pressure or interest groups. Professional associations of teachers, doctors, lawyers; business associations, trade unions are some examples of Pressure or interest groups.

Option 4 is incorrect. Pressure groups seek to mobilise people to effectively influence the government policies.

Source: NCERT X, Democratic politics, chapter 5

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Q.7) At the national level, which ministry is the nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006?

- a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- c) Ministry of Rural Development
- d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The ministry deals with forest and livelihood objectives at the national level.

Source) <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/forests/how-can-india-overcome-policy-and-institutional-gaps-in-forest-management-70718>

UPSC 2021

Q.8) Which of the following method would be used to introduce Hindi language in the 'Proceedings of the High Courts'?

- a) A Presidential order authorizing the same on the request of the Supreme Court.
- b) A Presidential order authorizing the use of Hindi on the request of the Governor.
- c) Governor can authorize the same with the previous consent of the President.
- d) An Act passed by the State Legislature by a simple majority.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The constitutional provisions dealing with the language of the courts and legislation are as follows:

Article 348 of Constitution on Language to be used in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts and for Acts, Bills, etc. suggests that until Parliament provides otherwise, the following are to be in the English language only:

- (a) All proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court.
- (b) The authoritative texts of all bills, acts, ordinances, orders, rules, regulations and bye-laws at the Central and state levels.

However, Article 348 also suggests that Governor of a state, with the previous consent of the President, can authorise the use of Hindi or any other official language of the state, in the proceedings in the high court of the state, but not with respect to the judgements, decrees and orders passed by it.

Further, a provision of the law made by the Parliament i.e., The Official Languages Act, 1963, enables the Governor of a state, with the previous consent of the President, to authorise the use of Hindi or any other official language of the state for judgements, decrees and orders passed by the high court of the state but they should be accompanied by an English translation.

Knowledge Base: A state legislature can prescribe the use of any language (other than English) with respect to bills, acts, ordinances, orders, rules, regulations or bye-laws, but a translation of the same in the English language is to be published.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – 6th Edition – Chapter 45 – Official Language.

Q.9) With reference to the provisions related to the Official Language Act of 1963, consider the following statements:

1. The act provides for use of English for all official purpose of Union for indefinite period of time.

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2. The states that have not adopted Hindi as an official language can also use Hindi for communication with the Union and the other States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Official Language Act 1963, provide for the languages which may be used for the official purposes of the Union, for transaction of business in Parliament, for Central and State, Acts and for certain purposes in High Courts.

Statement 1 is correct. The Official Language Act 1963 provides for the **continued use of English (even after 1965), in addition to Hindi**, for all official purposes of the Union and also for the transaction of business in Parliament. Notably, this act enables the **use of English indefinitely (without any time-limit)**. The act was amended in 1967 to make the use of English, in addition to Hindi, compulsory in some cases.

Statement 2 is correct. The **Official Language Act in 1963** provide that the English language should be used for purposes of **communication between the Union and a State** which has not adopted Hindi as its Official Language. The Act do not prevent a **State which has not adopted Hindi as its official language from using Hindi for purposes of communication with the Union or with a State** which has adopted Hindi as its official language, or by agreement with any other State, and in such a case, it shall not be obligatory to use the English language for purposes of communication with that State.

Source: <https://www.rajbhasha.nic.in/en/official-languages-act-1963>
LAXMIKANT (CH-OFFICIAL LANGUAGE)

Q.10) 'Tobin Funnel model', recently seen in news, is related to:

- a) Net Government Spending and Money Supply in an economy
- b) Duty on spot currency trades and market stability
- c) Relationship between net exports and country's exchange rate.
- d) Impact of inflation on interest rate in an economy

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Government has recently signalled that India will exit its extraordinary fiscal and monetary policies of pandemic times, gradually.

Tobin Funnel model: As per this model, a nation-state has control over two taps; **one for net government spending and another for money supply**. The water rushes through a common funnel into a tank below. The moment the tank below the funnel gets full, it overflows in the form of inflation. The volume of the tank depends on the supply side of the economy.

So, the underlying assumption in the Tobin funnel is that fiscal and monetary policy can sometimes be used alone and sometimes in combination for policy coordination.

How Tobin model creates policy dilemma?

The extra government borrowing creates huge public debt. For example, in the case of India, the bond market believes that the Centre's borrowing program in the next fiscal year is too high. Along with this, there is inflation and RBI is the inflation manager of the economy as well as debt manager. Now the dilemma is whether RBI should raise interest rates to tackle inflation or keep them low to support the government budget.

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Option b is incorrect: The **Tobin tax** is a **duty proposed on spot currency trades to penalize short-term currency trading** in order to stabilize markets and disincentive speculation. The Tobin tax can be used to generate revenue streams for countries that see a great deal of short-term currency movement.

Option c is incorrect: When an increase in one form of **net exports drives up a country's exchange** rate, it is called the **Dutch Disease**. Such instances make other exports non-competitive in the world market and impairs the ability of domestic products to compete with imports. The term originated from the supposed effect of natural gas discoveries on the Netherlands economy.

Option d is incorrect: **Fisher effect** is a concept developed by Irving Fisher (1867–1947) which shows **relationship between inflation and the interest rate**, expressed by an equation popular as the Fisher equation, i.e., the nominal interest rate on a loan is the sum of the real interest rate and the rate of inflation expected over the duration of the loan.

Source: The Tobin funnel and post-covid stimulus withdrawal dilemmas (forumias.com)

Ramesh Singh

Q.11) Under which Schedule of the Constitution of India can the transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining be declared null and void?

- a) Third Schedule
- b) Fifth Schedule
- c) Ninth Schedule
- d) Twelfth Schedule

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India, the Governor of a State can make regulations that prohibits or restricts transfer of land by Schedule Tribes to the other parties. In *Samatha vs. State of Andhra Pradesh* (1997), the Supreme Court declared that the transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining was null and void under the Fifth Schedule.

Source: PYQ 2019

Indian Polity by Laxmikant – 6th Edition – Chapter 41 – Scheduled and Tribal Areas.

Q.12) With reference to 'Multi-state Co-operative Societies' (MSCS), consider the following statements:

1. The Board of Directors of MSCS have members from all the states of India.
2. National Cooperative Development Corporation is the controlling authority of MSCS in India.
3. The state of Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of MSCS in the country.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) None of the above

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Cooperatives are enterprises which are owned, controlled and run by its members to realize their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations. In 2002, the Centre passed a **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act** that allowed for registration of societies with **operations in more than one state**.

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Statement 1 is incorrect: Multi-state cooperatives draw their membership from more than one states, and they are thus registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act. Their **board of directors has representation from all states they operate in (not all the States of India).**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **Central Registrar of Societies is the controlling authority** of Multi-State Co-operative Societies, but on the ground the State Registrar takes actions on his behalf. The **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) works for the promotion of the cooperative movement in India.** It is tasked with planning, promoting, coordinating and financing cooperative development programs at the national level.

Statement 3 is incorrect: **Maharashtra has the highest number of multistate cooperative societies at 567,** followed by Uttar Pradesh (147) and New Delhi (133). Credit societies constitute the bulk of the registered societies, followed by agro-based ones (which include sugar mills, spinning mills etc).

Knowledge Base:

Recently, the Cabinet has approved the extensive amendments to the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act (MSCS). The Act was last amended in 2002.

Salient features of the amendment:

1) Formation of specific bodies: The Bill also has specific provisions for setting up

- **Cooperative Election Authority** will be formed to conduct free, fair and timely elections to coops. This, in turn, will help reduce incidents of complaints and malpractices. There is a provision to debar offenders for three years to bring in more electoral discipline.
- **Cooperative information officer:** S/he will enhance transparency by providing members timely access to information.
- **Cooperative ombudsman:** The ombudsman will provide a mechanism for redressal of member grievances in a structured fashion.

2) To increase ease of doing business: The Bill proposes to reduce the period of registration, with a provision for the applicants to seek additional time of two months for rectification of mistakes.

3) Encourages a comprehensive digital ecosystem: The Bill provides for electronic submission and issuance of documents, thus providing for a comprehensive digital ecosystem.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/govt-amends-multi-state-cooperative-societies-act-to-bring-in-transparency/>

<https://blog.forumias.com/multistate-cooperatives-govt-plans-to-amend-the-law-explained-pointwise/>

<https://blog.forumias.com/ministry-of-cooperation/>

Q.13) With reference to language of judiciary in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Official languages Act empowers the Governor of a State to authorize the use of any official language of state for the judgements of High Court, with the consent of President.
2. The Parliament of India can authorize the use of Hindi for the proceedings of the Supreme Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Article 348 of the Indian Constitution deals with the language to be used in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts and for Acts, Bills, etc. of the Parliament and State legislature.

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Statement 1 is correct. According to Section 7 of the Official Languages Act, 1963 and under Article 348 (2) of the Indian Constitution, **the Governor of a State after the consent of the President can authorise the use of Hindi or any of the official language** of the State for judgement, decrees and orders of High Court. Any such judgement, decree or order of High Court which is in any language other than the English language, shall be along with the translation of the same in the English language issued under the authority of the High Court.

Statement 2 is correct. Article 348 (1) of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High court shall be in English Language until **Parliament otherwise provides**. The Parliament of India has not made any provisions for the use of Hindi in Supreme Court.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/use-of-hindi-language-in-courts-116042801074_1.html

<https://www.rajbhasha.nic.in/en/official-languages-act-1963>

Laxmikant (CH-OFFICIAL LANGUAGE)

Q.14) Which of the following is/are the special directives for the protection of linguistic minorities in India?

1. Every State should provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education.
2. The President of India appoints a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities to investigate all matters relating to their safeguard.
3. The Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities permits the linguistic minorities in states to establish and administer the educational institutions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

According to the Report of the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities, the linguistic minority status of a community is determined by numerical inferiority, non-dominant status in a state, and possessing a distinct identity.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Seventh Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956 inserted Article-350 A** to the Indian Constitution that every State and of every local authority within the State should provide adequate facilities for instruction in the **mother-tongue at the primary stage of education** to children belonging to **linguistic minority groups**; and the President can issue directions to any State as he considers necessary or proper for securing the provision of such facilities.

Statement 2 is correct. According to **Article-350B of the Indian Constitution**, there shall be a **Special Officer for linguistic minorities** to be **appointed by the President of India**. The Special Officer investigates all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities and report to the President upon those matters from time to time as the President directs. The President lays the reports before each House of Parliament, and sent to the Governments of the States concerned.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Establishing and administering the educational institutions of their choice is the **Fundamental Right of the linguistic minorities in India and do not require permission** of Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities. **Article 30 (1) of the Constitution of India** provides a fundamental right to linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutes of their choice.

Source: <https://legislative.gov.in/constitution-seventh-amendment-act-1956#:~:text=Restriction%20on%20practice%20after%20being,and%20the%20other%20High%20Courts.>

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2019/02/21/linguistic-minorities-in-india-the-entrenched-legal-and-educational-obstacles-they-face/>

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Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding 'Quantum Key Distribution' technology:

1. It is a technology for secure communication by utilizing a cryptographic protocol.
2. The encrypted protocol in this technique is restricted only to one sided communication at a time.
3. It works on the principles of quantum superimposition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

A team of scientists from the Défense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has successfully demonstrated the Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) link between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh, a distance of more than 100 kilometres

Statement 1 is correct: Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) is primarily a mechanism to undertake **secure communication** which utilizes a **cryptographic protocol** involving various components of quantum mechanics.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Quantum Key Distribution technology enables **two communicating sides to come up with random secret keys** shared by both of them and known exclusively to them, so only they can use it to encrypt and decrypt messages, thus achieving a very highly-secure communication.

Statement 3 is correct: The Conventional computers process information in 'bits' or 1s and 0s, following classical physics under which our computers can process a '1' or a '0' at a time. Quantum computers compute in qubits. They exploit the properties of quantum mechanics, the science that governs how matter behaves on the atomic scale. **In this scheme of things, processors can be a 1 and a 0 simultaneously, a state called quantum superposition. Because of quantum superposition, a quantum computer – if it works to plan – can mimic several classical computers working in parallel.**

Source: DRDO and IIT Delhi scientists demonstrate Quantum Key Distribution between two cities 100 kilometers apart (forumias.com)

Telecom secretary asks C-DoT to work on 6G, launches Quantum Communication Lab (forumias.com)

Q.16) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Classical Languages in India?

1. There are six languages that are given Classical language status by the government of India.
2. A language used in the body of ancient texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations can be declared as a classical language.
3. Eminent scholars in classical Indian languages are provided with two major international awards annually.

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Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The **six languages** in India enjoy the 'Classical Languages in India' status namely Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).

Statement 2 is correct. Any language can be declared as a Classical language if it fulfils the given criteria: -
(1) The language must have high antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years;

(2) **A language used in the body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.**

(3) The literary tradition of the language must be original and not borrowed from another speech community;

(4) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern can have discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

Statement 3 is correct. Once a language is notified as a Classical language, the Human Resource and Development Ministry provides certain benefits to promote it:

- 1) **Two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages.**
- 2) A Centre of Excellence for studies in Classical Languages is set up.
- 3) The University Grants Commission is requested to create, to start with at least in the Central Universities, a certain number of Professional Chairs for the Classical Languages so declared.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=103014>

LAXMIKANT (CH-OFFICIAL LANGUAGE)

Q.17) With reference to the Committee of Parliament on Official Language, consider the following statements:

- 1. The members of the Committee on Official Language are elected from both houses of Parliament.
 - 2. The Union Minister of Culture is the ex-officio chairman of the committee.
 - 3. The Committee reviews the progress made in the use of Hindi for official purposes of the Union.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Official language Act, 1963 and Article 344 of the Indian Constitution provides with the establishment and provision associated with the Commission and Committee of Parliament on official language.

Statement 1 is correct. The Committee on official languages **consists of thirty members**, of whom twenty shall be members of the **House of the People** and ten shall be members of the **Council of States**. **These members are** elected respectively by the members of the House of the People and the members of the Council of States. The election is in accordance with the **system of proportional representation** by means of the single transferable vote.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. The Chairman of Committee is elected by the members of the committee. As per the traditional criteria of the committee, the union home minister (**not Minister of Culture**) is appointed as the **Chairman of the official language committee**. Currently, the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, is the chairman of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.

Statement 3 is correct. The purpose of the Committee is

- 1) **To review the progress made in the use of Hindi for official purposes of Union, and**
- 2) To make recommendations to increase the use of Hindi in official communications.

Source: <https://rajbhasha.gov.in/en/constitutional-provisions>

LAXMIKANT (CH-OFFICIAL LANGUAGES)

Q.18) Which of the following Commission investigates the constitutional matters and legal safeguards of the Anglo-Indian community?

- a) National Commission for Scheduled Castes
- b) National Commission for the welfare of Anglo-Indians
- c) National Commission for Minorities
- d) National Commission for Backward Classes

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option a is correct. The **National Commission for Scheduled Castes** is a Constitutional body established under Article 338 of the Indian Constitution. It provides safeguards against the exploitation of Scheduled Castes and **Anglo-Indian communities** to promote and protect their social, educational, economic and cultural interests. **There is no separate Commission for the welfare of Anglo-Indian community.**

Source: <http://ncsc.nic.in/pages/display/9-about-us>

Q.19) With reference to the provisions in the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The President of India specifies the castes or tribes to be treated as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in each state and Union Territory of India.
2. The 105th Constitutional Amendment Act empowers the President of India to identify the Socially and Educationally Backward classes in states.
3. The Constitution of India has clearly defines the terms Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Article 330 to 342 in Part XVI of the Indian Constitution deals with special provisions associated with SC, ST, Anglo Indians and OBCs.

Statement 1 is correct. The **President of India** holds power to **specify as to what castes** or tribes in each state and Union Territory are **to be treated as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**. The President issues the notification after **consulting the governor** of the state concerned. But, any **inclusion or exclusion of any caste or tribe** from Presidential notification can be done only by the Parliament and not by a subsequent Presidential notification.

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Statement 2 is incorrect: The 105th Constitutional Amendment act empowers of State Governments (**not the President of India**) to identify and specify Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBCs). As per the Act, every State or Union territory may **prepare and maintain** a list of socially and educationally backward classes, for its own purposes. The entries in these state lists may be different from the **Central List**. **The President of India is empowered to identify and specify the Socially and Economically Backward Classes for the Central List only as per the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Constitution of India **does not define** the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Castes.

Source: LAXMIKANT (CH-Special Provisions Relating to Certain Classes)

<https://legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/THE%20CONSTITUTION%20%28ONE%20HUNDRED%20AND%20SECOND%20AMENDMENT%29ACT%2C2018.pdf>

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding Coastal Vulnerability Index:

1. The index has been recently developed and released by Indian Meteorological Department under Ministry of Earth Science.
2. The parameters used in determining the coastal risks includes tidal range and historical rate of relative sea-level change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) (**not Indian Meteorological Department**) has prepared the Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI). INCOIS has carried out a **coastal vulnerability assessment for the entire Indian coast at States level**. It has brought out an Atlas comprising 156 maps to prepare a Coastal Vulnerability Index.

Statement 2 is correct: The atlas determines the **coastal risks** due to future sea-level rise based on the physical and geological parameters for the Indian coast. The parameters used are: **a) Tidal range b) Wave height c) Coastal slope d) Coastal elevation e) Shoreline change rate f) Geomorphology and g) Historical rate of relative sea-level change.**

Source: INCOIS carries out coastal vulnerability assessment-ForumIAS Blog
 ESSO-INCOIS-Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services

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Q.21) Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, who shall be the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights or both?

- a) State Forest Department
- b) District Collector/Deputy Commissioner
- c) Tahsildar/Block Development Officer/Mandal Revenue Officer
- d) Gram Sabha

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Under the provisions of the Act, the **Gram Sabha shall be the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights or both** that may be given to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers and the Gram Sabha shall, then, pass a resolution to that effect and thereafter forward a copy of the same to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee.

Source: CSE Prelims 2013

<https://tribal.nic.in/downloads/FRA/FRAActnRulesBook.pdf>

Q.22) Part XVI of the Constitution of India provides special provisions for certain classes. In this context, which of the following provisions are included under this part?

- 1. Reservation for women in Legislatures
- 2. Reservation for SC/STs in Private Jobs
- 3. Educational Grants for Anglo-Indian community
- 4. Formation of National Commission for Backward Classes

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In order to realise the objectives of equality and justice as laid down in the Preamble, the Constitution makes special provisions for the scheduled castes (SCs), the scheduled tribes (STs), the backward classes (BCs) and the Anglo-Indians. These special provisions are contained in Part XVI of the Constitution from Articles 330 to 342A are related to the following:

- 1) Reservation in Legislatures
- 2) Special Representation in Legislatures
- 3) Reservation in Services and Posts
- 4) Educational Grants (Hence option 3 is correct)
- 5) Appointment of National Commissions (Hence option 4 is correct)
- 6) Appointment of Commissions of Investigation

Option 1 is incorrect. Under part XVI seats are reserved in the House of the People for – (a) the Scheduled Castes; [(b) the Scheduled Tribes except the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam; and] (c) the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam. There is **no provision of reservation for women in legislatures.**

Option 2 is incorrect. Part XVI does not contain provisions for reservation of certain classes in Private jobs. Hence this option is incorrect.

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Option 3 is correct. Under part XVI, article 337 provides for special provision with respect to **educational grants for the benefit of Anglo-Indian community. Hence this statement is correct.**

Option 4 is correct. Under part XVI, article 338B provides for a Commission for the socially and educationally backward classes to be known as the **National Commission for Backward Classes.**

Source: LAXMIKANT (CH-Special Provisions Relating to Certain Classes)

Q.23) With reference to the Home Minister's Advisory Committees of the Union Territories, consider the following statements:

1. These are constituted only for those Union Territories that do not have legislature.
2. They consist of nominated members from civil society.
3. They are consulted for the matters related to internal security.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961, Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry for all matters of Union Territories relating to legislation, finance and budget, services and appointment of Lt. Governors and Administrators.

Statement 1 is correct: The 5 UTs without legislature (Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Ladakh) have the forum of Home Minister's Advisory Committee (HMAC)/Administrator's Advisory Committee (AAC).

Statement 2 is correct: While Home Minister's Advisory Committee is chaired by the Union Home Minister, Administrator's Advisory Committee is chaired by the Administrator of the concerned UTs. The **Advisory Committees have the following members:**

- 1) **Administrator of the UT**
- 2) **Member of Parliament representing the UT**
- 3) **Representatives of the District Panchayats and Municipal Council of the respective UTs**
- 4) **Nominated members from the civil society.**

Statement 3 is correct: The Advisory Committee shall be consulted in the matters related to:

- 1) General issues relating to social and economic development of the UTs.
- 2) All legislative proposals concerning UT in regard to the matters in the State List.
- 3) **Internal security related matters.**
- 4) Such matters related to Annual Financial Statement of the Union in so far as it concerns the UT.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – 6th Edition – Chapter 40 – Union Territories.

https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/Lakshadweep_16022018.PDF

Q.24) Which of the followings may be the correct reasons for creation of Union Territories in Independent India?

1. Special treatment and care of the tribal people
2. Political and administrative consideration
3. Cultural distinctiveness
4. Resolution of Inter-state water sharing dispute

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Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The concept of Union Territory was first introduced in the **States Reorganization Act, 1956**. It refers to those territories that are too small to be independent or are too different (economically, culturally and geographically) to be merged with the surrounding states or are financially weak or are politically unstable. The union territories have been created for a variety of reasons. These are

Political and administrative consideration, cultural distinctiveness, Strategic importance, Special treatment and care of the backward and tribal people.

Statement 1 is correct: Special treatment and care of the tribal people- During the British Rule, certain areas due to their tribal nature were constituted as 'scheduled districts' in 1874. In 1956, they were constituted as the 'union territories' by the 7th Constitutional Amendment Act (1956). This includes Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh (later elevated to statehood).

Statement 2 is correct: Political and administrative consideration- Union Territories like Delhi is the administrative capital of India while Chandigarh is the administrative capital of both Haryana and Punjab. These Union Territories are formed due to political and administrative consideration.

Statement 3 is correct: Cultural Distinctiveness- Many of the Union Territories have a different culture than their surrounding States as they were earlier under the rule of Portuguese (Daman and Diu) and French (Puducherry). Hence, these UTs cannot be merged with the surrounding states.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Inter-state water dispute arise when there is a dispute between two or more states on the use, distribution and control of rivers flowing in two or more states. **It is not the correct reason for creation of Union Territories in Independent India.**

Source: Ch. 40 Laxmikanth

Q.25) Consider the following pairs:

Places seen in news	Countries
1. Port of Duqm	Morocco
2. Razzaza Lake	Iraq
3. Abyei region	Ukraine
4. Snake Island	Mediterranean Sea

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: Duqm Port & Drydock is a seaport located in **Oman**. It is situated on the south-eastern seaboard of Oman, overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. It is strategically located, near the Chabahar port in Iran. With the Assumption Island being developed in Seychelles and

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Agalega in Mauritius, Duqm fits into India's proactive maritime security roadmap. Oman is India's closest defence partner in the Gulf region. It provides critical operational support to Indian naval deployments in the Arabian Sea for anti-piracy missions. To counter Chinese maritime influence, India has secured access to the key Port of Duqm in Oman for military use, reconnaissance aircraft, and logistical support. Recently, India had deployed an attack submarine to Duqm port in the western Arabian Sea.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: **Razzaza Lake** is the **second-largest lake in Iraq** and is part of a wide valley that includes the lakes of Habbaniyah, Tharthar and Bahr al-Najaf. Iraq's Razzaza Lake was once a tourist attraction known for its beautiful scenery and an abundance of fish that locals depended on. Now, dead fish litter its shores and the once-fertile lands around it have turned into a barren desert.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: The **Abyei Area** is an area of 10,546 km² on the **border between South Sudan and the Sudan** that has been accorded "special administrative status" by the 2004 Protocol on the Resolution of the Abyei Conflict (Abyei Protocol) in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended the Second Sudanese Civil War.

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The Indian infantry group with around 570 soldiers will be deployed under the **UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)** in the Abyei region in Africa, which is between northern and southern Sudan and is claimed by both.

Pair 4 is incorrectly matched: Snake Island, or Zmiinyi Island, also known as Serpent Island is an **island belonging to Ukraine and is located in the Black Sea (not the Mediterranean Sea)**, near the Danube Delta. It plays an important role in delimiting the territorial waters of Ukraine. During Russia-Ukraine war this Island is a region of major face-off between these two powers.

Source: Iraq's second largest lake drying up, turning up dead fish -ForumIAS Blog

Explained: India, Oman ties and why its top defence official's Delhi visit important -ForumIAS Blog

India to send a battalion for peacekeeping ops in Africa -ForumIAS Blog

<https://www.euronews.com/2022/02/28/ukraine-war-snake-island-border-guards-are-alive-and-well-says-ukrainian-navy>

Q.26) Consider the following statements with reference to the objectives of Indian foreign policy:

1. It aims to strengthen India's international campaign against terrorism.
2. It aims for India to establish herself as a 'Big Brother' in south Asian region.
3. It aims to reform and restructure the UN Security Council to maintain a multi-polar world order.
4. It aims at establishing India as a strongest 'Nuclear Power' at international level.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

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The foreign policy of India regulates India's relations with other states of the world in promoting its national interests. It is determined by a number of factors, viz., geography, history and tradition, social structure, political organization, international milieu, economic position, military strength, public opinion and leadership.

From its very inception, India's foreign policy has been aimed at achieving certain objectives. India's foreign policy is directed towards the realization of the following objectives:

- 1) It aims to protect India's core national interests and concerns in a rapidly changing international environment by fostering support and understanding in the international community.
- 2) To preserve the autonomy of the decision-making process and to play a pioneering role in the establishment of a stable, prosperous and secure global order.
- 3) **To strengthen India's international campaign against terrorism.** Over the years, terrorism has emerged as the most formidable challenge not only to the safety and well-being of the common people but also to the greater cause of international peace and security. **(Hence statement 1 is correct.)**
- 4) To build an international environment which is supportive of India's rapid economic growth including higher investments, trade, access to technology and strengthening India's energy security.
- 5) To work closely with P-5 countries and to build strategic ties with the major powers such as the USA, the EU, Japan, Russia, and China.
- 6) It aims to ensure that cross-border terrorism is brought to an end and the entire infrastructure of terrorism operating from Pakistan is dismantled.
- 7) To further the gains from India's 'Act East' Policy (erstwhile 'Look East' Policy) and aspire for substantive progress in several areas of common interest to India and ASEAN.
- 8) It aims to continue to work closely with regional groupings like the EU and G-20 for furthering India's interests in the international arena.
- 9) **To reform and restructure the UN Security Council and maintain multi-polarity in a world order that respects the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention.** **(Hence Statement 3 is correct.)**

Statement 2 is incorrect: According to India foreign policy, it does not aim to establish it as a big brother in south Asia region. The objective of India's foreign policy is to intensify and strengthen ties with neighbours through mutually beneficial cooperation and by acknowledgement of each other's legitimate concerns.

Statement 4 is incorrect: it is not objective of India's foreign policy. India does not aim to establish it as a strongest nuclear power at international level. India has adopted its nuclear doctrine in 2003 which aims at **Building and maintaining a credible minimum deterrent**. India follows "No First Use" policy which says that nuclear weapons will only be used in retaliation against a nuclear attack on Indian territory or on Indian forces anywhere.

Source: <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/83108/1/Unit-3.pdf>

Indian polity by M Laxmikant pdf. Chapter name- foreign policy. Page no-1276 and 1277.

Q.27) Consider the following statements with reference to the Territories Acquired by the Government of India:

1. A Constitutional Amendment Bill needs to be introduced in the Parliament to enable India to acquire any territories.
2. The constitutional provisions for the administration of union territories de facto applies to the acquired territories.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Under Article 1 of the Constitution, the territory of India comprises three categories of territories: (a) territories of the states; (b) union territories; and (c) **territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any time**. At present, there are no acquired territories.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Being a sovereign state, India can acquire foreign territories according to the modes recognised by international law, i.e., cession (following treaty, purchase, gift, lease or plebiscite), occupation (hitherto unoccupied by a recognised ruler), conquest or subjugation. **There is no constitutional amendment bill is required to be introduced in Parliament for such acquisition.** So, when India acquires a foreign territory, it automatically becomes Indian territory because of the implicit nature of sovereignty. But to make it a legal entity, such as state or union territory or the part thereof, an act by parliament would be required. The acquired territories are directly administered by the Central government.

Statement 2 is correct: Since there are no separate provisions in the Constitution relating to the administration of Acquired Territories, the **constitutional provisions for the administration of union territories also apply to the acquired territories**. Thus, the acquired territory of Pondicherry, Karaikal, Yanam and Mahe, was being administered by the President of India through a Chief Commissioner until it was made a Union Territory, in 1962. Parliament has plenary power of legislation regarding such territory as in the case of Union Territories.

Source: ch. 40 laxmikanth

<https://www.shahucollegelatur.org.in/Documents/UnionanditsTerritory.pdf>

Q.28) With reference to 'States and Union Territories', consider the following statements:

1. Unlike in Union Territories, States in India share a distribution of power with the Centre.
2. President of India is the constitutional and executive head of both States and Union Territories.
3. There is no Union territory larger in size than any state of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Under Article 1 of the Constitution, the territory of India comprises three categories of territories: (a) territories of the states; (b) union territories; and (c) territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any time.

Statement 1 is correct: States relationship with Centre is federal. They share a distribution of power with the Centre. **Union Territories relationship with Centre is unitary.** They are under the direct control and administration of the Centre. They do not have any autonomy.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **executive head of states is known as Governor**. The executive head of Union Territory is known by various designations—administrator or lieutenant governor or chief commissioner. A governor is a constitutional head of the state. An administrator is an agent of the president.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Ladakh is the largest Union Territory which is larger in size than many Indian states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Kerala etc. So, the statement is incorrect.

Source: ch. 40 laxmikanth

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Q.29) With reference to 'Co-operative Societies in India', consider the following statements:

1. It is the duty of the State to promote co-operative societies under Article 43-B of Indian Constitution.
2. As per the Constitution, the subject of Cooperative Societies falls under the Concurrent list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

A Cooperative Society is a voluntary organization of individuals who are mostly workers and small producers. They are organized under joint management on democratic methods to improve their domestic and business conditions and capital collection.

Statement 1 is correct: The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011 gave a constitutional status and protection to co-operative societies. In this context, it made the following three changes in the constitution:

- 1) It made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right (Article 19(1)(c)).
- 2) **It included a new Directive Principle of State Policy on promotion of cooperative societies (Article 43-B).**
- 3) It added a new Part IX-B in the Constitution which is entitled "The Cooperative Societies" (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT).

Statement 2 is incorrect: "Cooperative Societies" is a Subject of State List (not the Concurrent List) in the 7th Schedule via entry 32 of the State List in the Constitution of India.

Source: Ch. 64 Laxmikanth

Q.30) With reference to 'One Ocean Summit', consider the following statements:

1. The summit was recently organised by India in cooperation with World Ocean Council.
2. It aims to mobilise the international community to take tangible action towards preserving sustainable ocean ecosystems.
3. In this summit, India proposed an initiative for a "High Ambition Coalition on Bio-diversity Beyond National Jurisdiction".

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Prime Minister has recently addressed the high-level segment of the One Ocean Summit.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **One Ocean summit** was organised by **France (not in India)** in cooperation with the **United Nations and the World Bank (and not World Ocean Council)**. The United Nations has declared the decade between 2021 and 2030 as the 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development' to raise awareness and restore declining marine life.

Statement 2 is correct: The objective of the **One Ocean summit** is to mobilise the international community to take **tangible action** towards **preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems**.

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Statement 3 is incorrect: Launched at the **One Ocean Summit** in February 2022, the ‘**High Ambition Coalition on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction**’ is a **French (not Indian) initiative** which brings together many delegations engaged in the **BBNJ negotiations** on a common and ambitious outcome at the highest political level. **In this summit India supported (and not proposed) this French initiative.** The “BBNJ Treaty”, **also known as the “Treaty of the High Seas”**, is an international agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, **currently under negotiation at the United Nations.** This new instrument is **being developed within the framework of the UNCLOS**, the main international agreement governing human activities at sea. It will achieve **a more holistic management of high seas activities**, which should better balance the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. BBNJ **encompasses the high seas, beyond the exclusive economic zones or national waters of countries.**

Source: Remarks by Prime Minister at the One Ocean Summit -ForumIAS Blog

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/oceans-2022-meet-gets-under-way/article65074071.ece>

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/one-ocean-summit-unesco-pledges-have-least-80-seabed-mapped-2030>

<https://www.unep.org/events/summit/one-planet-summit-oceans-one-ocean-summit>

Q.31) The Government enacted, the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in 1996. Which one of the following is **not** identified as its objective?

- a) To provide self-governance
- b) To recognize traditional rights
- c) To create autonomous regions in tribal areas
- d) To free tribal people from exploitation

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The PESA Act was enacted to extend the provisions of 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts to the Fifth Schedule areas. Thus, it was meant to provide institutions of local self-governance in the Scheduled Areas and to recognise the traditional rights of the tribals. The provisions of this Act address some of the most complex problems of exploitation and marginalisation of the tribals.

The act did not have any provisions of creating any autonomous regions.

Source: PYQ 2013

https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/PESAAct1996_0.pdf

Q.32) With reference to the provisions related to regional languages, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor, with President's consent, can adopt any language as state's official language even if it is outside the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
2. The state legislature can adopt any number of languages for official purpose of the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

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Article 345 of the Indian Constitution deals with the official language or languages of a States.

Statement 1 is correct. As per the provisions of Official Language Act 1963, the states **can adopt the languages mentioned in Eight Schedule** of the Indian Constitution. However, the choice of the state is **not limited to the languages enumerated in the Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution. **They can even opt their regional languages as the official language of the state by the Governor of a State** with the previous consent of the President. For example-Andhra Pradesh has adopted Telugu, Kerala has adopted Malayalam etc.

Statement 2 is correct. The provisions mentioned in **Articles 346 and 347 of the Indian Constitution** state that the legislature of a State may by law adopt **any one or more of the languages** in use in the State or Hindi as the Language or Languages to be used **for all or any of the official purposes** of that State. But the English language shall continue to be used for those official purposes within the State for which it was being used immediately before the commencement of this Constitution.

Source: <https://rajbhasha.gov.in/en/constitutional-provisions>

LAXMIKANT (CH-OFFICIAL LANGUAGE)

Q.33) With reference to the 'Board of Multi-State Co-operative Societies', consider the following statements:

1. A Minister in the Centre or State Government can be elected as the Chairperson of the Board.
 2. The conduct of elections to such a Board is the responsibility of Election Commission of India.
 3. A person is not eligible to hold the office of chairperson of more than two such Boards at the same time.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: No member of a board shall be eligible to be elected as the chairperson or president or vice-chairperson or vice-president of a multi-state cooperative society **if such member is a Minister in the Central Government or a State Government.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: As per the provisions of MSCS ACT 2002, the conduct of elections to the board of a multi-state cooperative society shall be the responsibility of the existing board (**not the Election Commission of India**).

The recent amendment bill to MSCS ACT 2002 suggests a Cooperative Election Authority to ensure that elections are held in a fair, free and timely manner. This, in turn, will help reduce incidents of complaints and malpractices. There is a provision to debar offenders for three years to bring in more electoral discipline.

Statement 3 is correct: No person shall be eligible to hold, at the same time, office of a president or chairperson or vice-president or vice-chairperson on **the board of more than two multistate cooperative societies.**

Source: <https://mscs.dac.gov.in/Guidelines/GuidelineAct2002.pdf>

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cabinet-clears-amendments-to-multi-state-cooperative-societies-act-122101201091_1.html

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Q.34) Consider the following statements with reference to different Union territories of India:

1. Before independence, Dadra and Nagar Haveli was ruled by French.
2. A regulation made by the President can repeal or amend any act of Parliament in relation to the union territory of Lakshadweep.
3. The President can make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi and Daman and Diu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Portuguese (and not The French)** ruled this territory until its liberation in 1954. Subsequently, the administration was carried on till 1961 by an administrator chosen by the people themselves. Dadra and Nagar Haveli were small undefended Portuguese overseas territories, part of Portuguese India since 1779. The territories were enclaves, without any access to the sea, administered by the Portuguese Governor of the district of Damão.

Statement 2 is correct and 3 is incorrect. A regulation made by the President has the same force and effect as an act of Parliament and **can also repeal or amend any act of Parliament** in relation to these union territories.

The **President** can make **regulations** for the **peace, progress and good government** of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu but **not Delhi**. In the case of Puducherry also, the President can legislate by making regulations but only when the assembly is suspended or dissolved. A regulation made by the President has the same force and effect as an act of Parliament and **can also repeal or amend any act of Parliament** in relation to these union territories.

Knowledge Base: The legislative power of Parliament for the union territories on subjects of the State List remain unaffected even after establishing a local legislature for them.

Source: Indian polity, M Laxmikanth

Q.35) Which of the following is correct regarding the recent 'Pledge' made by P5 members ahead of a review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), 1970?

- a) It advocated for an early resolution for time bound Universal Nuclear Disarmament.
- b) It emphasised on adopting multilateral diplomatic approaches to avoid military confrontations.
- c) It aims to create a new international organisation for the control and regulation of atomic technologies.
- d) It urged all the UN members to sign and ratify Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Five permanent United Nations Security Council (also known as the Permanent Five, Big Five, or P5) members have **pledged** to avoid the ongoing arms race and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. This pledge was made **ahead of a review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), 1970**.

Option a is incorrect: The five permanent UNSC members made the pledge that the spread of atomic weapons must be prevented. This is because a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. However, there is **no agreement with respect to time bound universal nuclear disarmament among P5 countries**.

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Option b is correct: The pledges made by P5 members on nuclear proliferation are-

- 1) The further **spread of such weapons must be prevented**. A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.
- 2) Adopting **bilateral and multilateral diplomatic approaches to avoid military confrontations** and to increase mutual understanding and confidence.
- 3) Engaging in **constructive dialogue** with mutual respect and acknowledgement of each other's security interests and concerns.

Option c is incorrect: The P5 countries have expressed their intention to maintain and further strengthen their national measures to prevent unauthorised or unintended use of nuclear weapons. There is **no pledge of any new organisation** to control and regulation of atomic technologies. Currently, **International Atomic Energy Agency** serves as an intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear technology and nuclear power worldwide.

Option d is incorrect: P5 countries have **pledged to abide by a key article in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** under which countries have committed to full future disarmament from nuclear weapons. The pledge does not include calling the members of UN to join **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**.

Source: Why UNSC joint statement on nuclear weapons is important-ForumIAS Blog

<https://blog.forumias.com/non-proliferation-world-powers-vow-to-stop-spread-of-nuclear-weapons/>

Q.36) With reference to 'Special Provisions for Delhi', consider the following statements:

1. The strength of the council of ministers is fixed at ten per cent of the total strength of the Legislative Assembly.
2. The Lieutenant Governor is empowered to promulgate ordinances during recess of the assembly.
3. In the case of difference of opinion between the Lt. Governor and his council of ministers, the decision of the council of ministers prevails.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The **69th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991** provided a special status to the Union Territory of Delhi, and redesignated it the **National Capital Territory of Delhi** and designated the administrator of Delhi as the lieutenant (lt.) governor. It created a legislative assembly and a council of ministers for Delhi. Previously, Delhi had a metropolitan council and an executive council.

Statement 1 is correct: The strength of the assembly is fixed at 70 members, directly elected by the people. The **strength of the council of ministers is fixed at ten per cent** of the total strength of the assembly, that is, seven—one chief minister and six other ministers.

Statement 2 is correct: The **lt. governor is empowered to promulgate ordinances during recess of the assembly**. An ordinance has the same force as an act of the assembly. **Every such ordinance must be approved by the assembly within six weeks from its reassembly**. He/she can also withdraw an ordinance at any time. But he cannot promulgate an ordinance when the assembly is dissolved or suspended.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister aids and advises the Lt. Governor in the exercise of his functions except in so far as he is required to act in his discretion. In the case of **difference of opinion between the Lt. Governor and his ministers, the Lt. Governor is to refer the matter to the President for decision and acts accordingly**.

Source: Ch. 40 Laxmikanth

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Q.37) The Indian Constitution prescribes mandatory reservation for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in which of the following bodies?

1. Lok Sabha
2. Rajya Sabha
3. Legislative assembly of a state
4. All three levels of panchayat bodies
5. Chairpersons of Urban Local Bodies

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option 1 and 3 is correct: Article 330 and 332 of the Indian constitutions provides for the Reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the House of the people (Lok Sabha) and legislative assemblies of the states respectively. The Constitution provided for the reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the house of people and assembly of each state on the basis of population ratios. Parliament in 2019 passed a Constitutional amendment bill to extend quota to SCs and STs in Lok Sabha and state assemblies by another 10 years. Reservation for members of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), given for the past 70 years in Lok Sabha and state assemblies was due to end on January 25, 2020.

Option 2 is incorrect: The Indian constitution does not prescribe the reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in Rajya Sabha.

Option 4 is correct: 73rd constitutional amendment act of 1992 has provided for the reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in every panchayat (I.e., at all the three levels) in proportion of their population to the total population in the panchayat area. The state legislature shall provide for the reservation of offices of chairperson in the panchayat at the village or any other level for the SCs and STs.

Option 5 is incorrect: The 74th constitutional amendment act provides for the reservation of seats for the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes in every municipality in proportion of their population to the total population in the municipal area. The offices of Chairpersons in the Municipalities shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women in **such manner as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide**. Hence reservation for chairpersons of urban local bodies is based on the discretion of State Legislatures and not mandatory as per the constitution.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/parliament-passes-bill-to-extend-sc/st-reservation-in-legislatures/articleshow/72493721.cms?from=mdr>

Indian polity by M Laxmikanth pdf. Chapter names- parliament, state legislative assembly and panchayati raj.

<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/119845688/>

Q.38) Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Control of the Union over the Administration of Scheduled Areas and the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes':

1. According to the Constitution, the Parliament must appoint a Commission to report on the administration of the Scheduled Areas.
2. Union has executive power to give directions to a State for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the State.

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3. First commission regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas and the Welfare of STs was appointed under DB Kalelkar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Article 339 of Indian constitution extends the Control of the Union over the administration of Scheduled Areas and the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The President (not the Parliament) may at any time appoint a Commission to report on the administration of the Scheduled Areas and the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the States. He can appoint such a commission at any time but compulsorily after ten years of the commencement of the Constitution. The order may define the composition, powers and procedure of the Commission and may contain such incidental or ancillary provisions as the President may consider necessary or desirable.

Statement 2 is correct: The executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of directions to a State as to the drawing up and execution of schemes specified in the direction to be essential for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the State.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Two commissions were appointed by the President regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas and the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. **First commission was appointed in 1960. It was headed by U.N. Dhebar (not DB Kalelkar) and submitted its report in 1961.** The second commission was appointed in 2002 under the chairmanship of Dilip Singh Bhuria. It submitted its report in 2004.

Source: http://constitutionofindia.etal.in/article_339/

Indian polity by M Laxmikanth pdf. Chapter name- Special Provisions Relating to Certain Classes.
Page no-1143.

Q.39) Which of the following groups of languages are included under schedule 8 of the constitution?

- a) Nepali, Kashmiri, Sanskrit and Rajasthani
- b) Nepali, Urdu, Konkani, and Rajasthani
- c) Konkani, English, Santhali and Punjabi
- d) Nepali, Maithili, Sanskrit and Punjabi

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option a, b and c are incorrect. English is the language which is the official language of a state but is still **not recognized in the 8th schedule** of the constitution of India. Similarly, **Rajasthani language is still not included in the 8th** scheduled of the constitution and Rajasthan government is trying to include it into 8th schedule.

Option d is correct. The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution specifies 22 languages (originally 14 languages). These are Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri (Dongri), **Gujarati**, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Mathili (Maithili), Malayalam, Manipuri, **Marathi**, **Nepali**, Odia, **Punjabi**, **Sanskrit**, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. Sindhi was added by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967; Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992; and Bodo, Dongri, Maithili and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003.

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Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 1096 (Pdf)

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/lok-sabha-elections/tried-to-get-rajasthani-included-in-eighth-schedule-of-constitution-bikaner-mp/story-LHzvylzNwG1wrX33rlA2TO.html>

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding 'Artificial Neural Network (ANN)':

1. It is a computational model that mimics the way nerve cells work in the human brain.
2. It is a machine learning algorithm that process numbers or organize data in a standard pattern similar to supercomputers.
3. The time taken to train the networks to perform complex tasks is the major limitation of ANN technology.
4. These networks have their own decision-making process like human brain.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Recently, the global Artificial Neural Network (ANN) Market report was published. As per the current report, ANN Market is to set phenomenal growth from 2021 to 2028.

Statement 1 is correct: Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) also known as Neural Networks are a vital **subset of machine learning** and are at the heart of deep learning algorithms.

Their name and structure are inspired by the **human brain, mimicking the way that biological neurons signal to one another**. It is basically a **computational model that mimics the way nerve cells work in the human brain**. It is designed to simulate the way the human brain analyses and processes information.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) are not like other machine learning algorithms that process numbers or organize data, it is an algorithm that learns from **experience and repeated tasks performed by users**.

Statement 3 is correct: The most significant of **limitations** of Artificial Neural Network (ANN)

is the **time it takes to train networks**, which frequently demand an acceptable level of computational power for even complex tasks. Other limitation include neural networks are computer systems in which the user categorizes the trained data and gets responses. They have the ability to fine-tune the responses, but they **do not have access to the specific decision-making process**.

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Statement 4 is incorrect: The other limitation of ANN to consider is that **neural networks are computer systems in which the user categorises the trained data and gets responses**. They have the ability to fine-tune the responses, but unlike the human brain, **they do not have access to the specific decision-making process**.

Source: Understanding Artificial Neural Networks -ForumIAS Blog

Artificial Neural Network – an overview | ScienceDirect Topics

What is an Artificial Neural Network (ANN)? – Definition from Techopedia

Q.41) In the areas covered under the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, what is the role/power of Gram Sabha?

1. Gram Sabha has the power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas.
2. Gram Sabha has the ownership of minor forest produce.
3. Recommendation of Gram Sabha is required for granting prospecting licence or mining lease for any mineral in the Scheduled Areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 and 2 are correct and Statement 3 is incorrect: According to the provisions of the PESA Act, 1996 the recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be made mandatory prior to grant of prospecting licence or mining lease **for minor minerals (not any mineral) in the Scheduled Areas**.

Section 4(m)(iii) of PESA requires the State to enact laws for the purpose of empowering Gram Sabhas and Panchayats at the appropriate level **“to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas and to take appropriate action to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a Scheduled Tribe”**.

Section 4(m)(ii) of PESA **endows the Panchayats at the appropriate level and the Gram Sabha with the ownership of minor forest produce**.

Source: PYQ 2012

https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/PESAAct1996_0.pdf

Q.42) Which of the following are correct with reference to the manifestation of phenomenon of regionalism in India?

1. Inter-state boundary disputes.
2. Forming an organization which advocates a militant approach for separation from India.
3. Demand for separate statehood by people of certain areas.
4. Demand of Union Territories for full-fledged statehood.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 2 and 4 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Regionalism refers to sub-nationalism and sub-territorial loyalty. It implies the love for a particular region or state in preference to the country as a whole. Sub regionalism is a love for a particular region in preference to the state of which the region forms a part.

Option 1 is correct: The forces of regionalism in India are visible in the inter-state disputes. The people of Punjab and Haryana are involved in a dispute over the issue of transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and the transfer of certain areas of Abohar and Fazilka to Haryana. The boundary disputes between Maharashtra and Karnataka on Belgaum, between Karnataka and Kerala on Kasargod, between Assam and Nagaland on Rangma reserved forests in Rangapani area, between Assam and Meghalaya on Langpih, Hakumari and Jingiran river areas of Garo hills, and between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh on Pasighat area are manifestations of regionalism.

Option 2 is correct: It is a form of regionalism that **involves militant and fundamentalist groups advocating a separation from India** on the basis of ethnicity or any other factor. **For example, Isac Muivah's National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM), the Islamic fundamentalist groups in J&K, United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) in Assam** are examples of such an **extreme dimension of regionalism**.

Option 3 is correct: People of certain areas demand for separate statehood is a manifestation of regionalism. (Like Telangana, Bodoland, Uttarakhand, Vidarbha, Gorkhaland etc.). After 1956 reorganization of states of India, there continues to be demands for separate statehood in various parts of the country. The rise in the number of states of the Indian Union from 16 in 1956 to 28 in 2000 tends to prove the correctness of this statement.

Option 4 is correct: People of certain Union Territories demand for full-fledged statehood are a manifestation of regionalism (like Manipur, Tripura, Puducherry, Delhi, and Goa, Daman and Diu and so on). Most of such demands have already been accepted. In 1971, Himachal Pradesh got the status of a full state and thereafter Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh (former NEFA), Sikkim got full statehoods.

Source: Indian polity by M Laxmikanth pdf. Chapter name- national integration. Page no- 1260.

<https://www.preservearticles.com/political-science/forms-of-regionalism-found-in-indian-political-system/30538>

Q.43) For which among the following States, there are the provisions for the administration of Tribal Areas under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur
- b) Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram
- c) Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram
- d) Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Constitution, under Sixth Schedule, contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

The Tribal Areas under Sixth Schedule include:

- 1) Assam – **North Cachar Hills District**, Karbi Anglong District and Bodoland Territorial Areas District.
- 2) Meghalaya – Khasi Hills District, Jaintia Hills District and Garo Hills District.
- 3) Tripura – Tripura Tribal Areas District.
- 4) Mizoram – **Chakma District**, Mara District and **Lai District**.

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In Assam, the Statutory Autonomous Councils are constituted for Social, Economic, Educational, Ethnic and Cultural advancement of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities living in Core Areas as well as in Satellite Areas covering many districts of Assam. There are six Statutory **Autonomous Councils**:

- 1) Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council
- 2) **Mising Autonomous Council**
- 3) Tiwa Autonomous Council
- 4) Deori Autonomous Council
- 5) Thengal Kachari Autonomous Council
- 6) **Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council.**

Knowledge Base:

The tribal people in other parts of India have more or less adopted the culture of the majority of the people in whose midst they live. The tribes in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, on the other hand, still have their roots in their own culture, customs and civilization. These areas are, therefore, treated differently by the Constitution and sizeable amount of autonomy has been given to these people for self-government.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – 6th Edition – Chapter 41 – Scheduled and Tribal Areas.

<https://assam.gov.in/government/410>

Q.44) With reference to the special provisions for some states in Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The President gives special responsibility to the state legislatures to set up development boards for certain areas in Maharashtra and Gujarat.
2. The Legislative Assembly of the state of Goa must consist of not less than 30 members.
3. The Governor has the special responsibility with respect to law and order in the state of Manipur.
4. Parliament may provide a number of seats for people of different sections in the Nagaland legislative assembly, in order to protect their rights and interests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 2 only
- d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

States that have special provisions under Article 371(A-J):

Statement 1 is incorrect: Article 371 – Maharashtra and Gujarat

Governors (**not state legislatures**) of the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat are given special responsibilities to set up development boards in regions such as Vidarbha, Marathwada, Kutchh etc.

Statement 2 is correct: Article 371I – Goa

The Legislative Assembly of the state of Goa must consist of not less than 30 members.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Article 371H – Arunachal Pradesh

The **governor of Arunachal Pradesh will have special responsibility with respect to law and order in the state (not the Governor of Manipur).**

Statement 4 is incorrect: Article 371F – Sikkim

Article 371F was incorporated into the Constitution in 1975. **It states that the Legislative Assembly shall consist of not less than 30 members. In order to protect the rights and interests of the different sections**

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of the population in the state of Sikkim (not the state of Nagaland), seats in the assembly are provided to people of these different sections.

SOURCE: <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/338476/>

<https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2019/08/05/states-that-have-special-provisions-under-article-371-a-j.html>

Q.45) The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has pledged to map around 80% of the world's ocean floors by 2030. Which of the following is/are the advantages of mapping ocean floors?

1. To better deal with oil spills
2. Understanding Seismic and Tsunami risks
3. Assessment of future effects of climate change
4. Potential for offshore infrastructure

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has pledged to map around 80% of the world's ocean floors by 2030. At present, only 20% of the seabed has been mapped and studied. The ocean floor will be mapped by Deploying a fleet of 50 dedicated mapping vessels, intensifying the use of sonar on autonomous vessels, the transmission of cartographic data archived by governments and corporations and using other tools. The ocean floor is being mapped and studied to identify the following: I) Location of ocean faults, II) Workings of ocean currents and III) tides and Transport of sediments.

Option d is correct: The ocean floor mapping will help us understand **seismic and tsunami risks**, sustainable fisheries resources, ways to **deal with oil spills**, air crashes and shipwrecks, **potential for offshore infrastructure** and in **assessing the future effects of climate change**, whether it be temperature increases or sea-level rise.

Source: Understanding oceans: Why UNESCO wants to map 80% of the world's seabed -ForumIAS Blog
<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/science-technology/understanding-oceans-why-unesco-wants-to-map-80-of-the-world-s-seabed-81525>

Q.46) Consider the following statements:

1. Union territory is administered by the President acting through an administrator appointed by him.
2. President can make laws on any subject of the Seventh Schedule including the State List for all the union territories.
3. The authority to put Union Territory under the jurisdiction of the High Court of adjacent state is vested in the Parliament of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

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Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Union Territories are those areas which are under the direct control and administration of the Central government. Hence, they are also known as 'centrally administered territories'. Articles 239 to 241 in Part VIII of the Constitution deal with the union territories.

Statement 1 is correct: Every union territory is **administered by the President acting through an administrator** appointed by him. **An administrator of a union territory is an agent of the President and not head of state like a governor.** The President can specify the designation of an administrator; it may be Lieutenant Governor or Chief Commissioner or Administrator. The President can also appoint the governor of a state as the administrator of an adjoining union territory.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **Parliament (not President) can make laws on any subject of the three lists of Seventh Schedule (including the State List) for the union territories.** This power of Parliament also extends to Puducherry and Delhi, which have their own local legislatures. This means that, the legislative power of Parliament for the union territories on subjects of the State List remain unaffected even after establishing a local legislature for them.

Statement 3 is correct: The **Parliament can establish a High Court for a union territory or put it under the jurisdiction of the High Court of adjacent state.** Delhi is the only union territory that has a High Court of its own (since 1966). The Bombay High Court has got jurisdiction over two union territories—Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry are placed under the Calcutta, Punjab and Haryana, Kerala, and Madras High Courts respectively.

Source: ch. 40 laxmikanth

Q.47) Consider the following statements with reference to the features and impacts of Gujral Doctrine:

1. It led to the resolution of water sharing dispute between India and Pakistan.
 2. The Doctrine exclusively focusses on India's diplomatic relations with Southeast Asian nations.
 3. Under this Doctrine, India firmly refused to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) None of the above

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Gujral Doctrine is a milestone in India's foreign policy. It was propounded and initiated by the then Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral in 1996, in the Deve Gowda Government. The Doctrine is a set of five principles to guide the conduct of foreign relations with **India's immediate neighbours**. These five principles arise from the belief that India's stature and strength cannot be isolated from the quality of its relations with its neighbours. It, thus, recognizes the supreme importance of friendly, cordial relations with neighbours.

These principles are:

- 1) **With neighbours like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, India does not ask for reciprocity but gives and accommodates what it can in good faith and trust.**
- 2) No South Asian country should allow its territory to be used against the interest of another country of the region.
- 3) No country should interfere in the internal affairs of another.
- 4) All South Asian countries must respect each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
- 5) They should settle all their disputes through peaceful bilateral negotiations.

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Impacts and Application of Gujral Doctrine:

- 1) The Doctrine led to the resolution of the **water-sharing dispute** with Bangladesh (**and not Pakistan**) in just three months in 1996-97. **(Statement 1 is incorrect)**
- 2) This almost coincided with the treaty with Nepal for taming the Mahakali River for the generation of hydel power.
- 3) It was followed by agreements with Sri Lanka for expanding development cooperation.
- 4) Also, it led to the starting of **composite dialogue** with Pakistan.
- 5) The composite dialogue was based on the principle that while entire spectrums of relationships came under **sincere problem-solving dialogues**.
- 6) Cooperation must begin on agreed terms in agreed areas (trade, travel, culture etc.) even as certain disputes remained unresolved (Kashmir, terrorism).

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Gujral Doctrine advocates that India, being the biggest country in South Asia should extend unilateral concessions to the smaller neighbours. **The Gujral doctrine is formulated on India's accommodating approach towards its smaller neighbours on the basis of the principle of non-reciprocity.** It recognizes the supreme importance of friendly and cordial relations with India's neighbours. **Hence the doctrine does not focus on India's diplomatic relations with Southeast Asian Nations.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: IK Gujral can be remembered for two significant contributions to Indian foreign policy. One, he propounded the 'Gujral doctrine' which is considered a milestone in India's foreign policy. **Two, despite international pressure, Gujral firmly refused to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in October 1996. Hence refusal to sign the CTBT is not related to the Gujral Doctrine.**

Source: <https://idsa.in/askanexpert/GujralDoctrine%3F>

Indian polity by M Laxmikanth pdf. Chapter name- Foreign policy. Page no-1278.

<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1796196#:~:text=It%20is%20an%20overarching%20programme,various%20Government%20welfare%20Schemes%20and>

Q.48) Consider the following statements with reference to the National Commission for Minorities:

1. This Commission was set by a resolution of Home Ministry in 1978.
2. It has the powers of a civil court while performing its functions.
3. It is the implementing agency for the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for welfare of Minority Communities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: National Commission for Minorities is a statutory body under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. In 1993, the first **Statutory National Commission for minorities was set up under Ministry of Minority Affairs** and five religious communities the Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) were notified as minority communities. Further in 2014, Jains have also been notified as minority community. National Commission for Minorities' (NCM's) predecessor i.e., the Minority Commission (MC) was set up by a resolution of Home Ministry in 1978.

Statement 2 is correct: The national commission for minorities has all the powers of a civil Court while making recommendations with regard to the protection of the minority rights enshrined in statute,

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conducting research and educational efforts on such topics as the socio-economic and educational development of minority groups, and issuing reports related to minority rights.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Ministry of minority affairs (and not National Commission for Minorities) is the agency for implementing the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for welfare of Minority Communities. On the other hand, the National Commission for Minorities Ensures that the **Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities** is implemented and the programmer for minority communities are actually functioning.

Source: <http://ncm.nic.in/homepage/homepage.php>

<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/39104/3/Unit-4.pdf>

https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/ncm_act1992.pdf

<https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/15pp-english.pdf>

Q.49) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Inner Line Permit', often seen in news:

1. It is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to allow inward travel of foreigners into a protected area for a limited period.
2. Presently, this permit is issued for states of Nagaland, Manipur and Assam only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to allow inward travel of an **Indian citizen (not Foreigners)** into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside those states to obtain a permit for entering into the protected state. The document is an effort by the government to regulate movement to certain areas located near the international border of India. This is an offshoot of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873, which protected Crown's interest in the tea, oil and elephant trade by prohibiting "British subjects" from entering into these "Protected Areas" (to prevent them from establishing any commercial venture that could rival the Crown's agents). The word "British subjects" was replaced by Citizen of India in 1950. Despite the fact that the ILP was originally created by the British to safeguard their commercial interests, it continues to be used in India, officially to protect tribal cultures in northeastern India. There are different kinds of ILP's, one for tourists and others for people who intend to stay for long-term periods, often for employment purposes.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The system is in force today in **three Northeastern states – Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram (not Assam and Manipur)**, and no Indian citizen can visit any of these states unless he or she belongs to that state, nor can he or she overstay beyond the period specified in the ILP.

Source: <https://eastsiang.nic.in/service/inner-line-permit-eilp/>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/what-is-inner-line-permit-and-will-it-address-north-east-states-concerns-over-cab-6145508/>

Q.50) Consider the following statements regarding 'New India Literacy Programme':

1. The objective of the scheme is to impart critical life skills that are essential for a citizen.
2. The scheme will be implemented through volunteerism via online mode.
3. The scheme will cover non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in India.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Government has approved a new scheme “New India Literacy Programme” for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020.

Statement 1 is correct: The objective of New India Literacy Programme is to impart not only **foundational literacy and numeracy** but also to cover other **critical life skills components** which are necessary for a citizen of the **21st century**. These include financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare; basic education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency) vocational skills (with a view towards obtaining local employment).

Statement 2 is correct: Under the program, **schools** will be used for conducting survey of beneficiaries and Voluntary Teachers (VTs). The scheme will be **implemented through volunteerism** through **online mode**. The training, orientation, workshops of volunteers, may be organized through face-to-face mode. All material and resources shall be provided digitally for easy access to registered volunteers through easily accessible digital modes, viz, TV, radio, cell phone-based free/open-source Apps/portals, etc.

Statement 3 is correct: The scheme will cover **non-literates of the age of 15 years and above** in all state/UTs in the country. The target for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for FYs 2022-27 is 5 (five) crore learners @ 1.00 crore per year by using “Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS)” in collaboration with National Informatics Centre, NCERT and NIOS in which a learner may register him/herself with essential information like name, date of birth, gender, Aadhaar number, mobile number etc.

Source: Government approves ' New India Literacy Programme, a new scheme of Adult Education for FYs 2022-27" -ForumIAS Blog

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1798805>